

28.05.2021

**Shri Anil Baijal,**  
His Excellency  
The Lieutenant Governor,  
Government of Delhi.

**Subject: RAI appeal for opening up the non-essentials retail activities in Delhi while following social distancing norms.**

***Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor,***

**Greetings from the Retailers Association of India (RAI)!**

RAI appreciates the untiring efforts of the State Authorities in managing the second wave of the pandemic.

The pandemic has been brutal on individuals and businesses alike. RAI believes that it's important for the state to help minimise impact and aid recovery.

**RAI Submission for the opening of non-essential retailers:**

As the Government takes measures to restart economic activities in a calibrated manner to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens, **we urge the Government to permit non-food category retailers (non-essential retailers) to operate.**

*His Excellency,* our humble submission to you is that:

1. In addition to food and FMCG items, citizens also require and have been inquiring about non-food items such as clothing, personal care products, baby products, electrical & hardware items, work-related and kitchen-related essentials among others daily.
2. Non-essential shops of 1000 sq. ft get a maximum of 10-15 footfall throughout the day and social distancing can easily be achieved.
3. Moreover, to enable fulfilling these needs without hardships; non-food retailers should be allowed to open and should be encouraged to take orders over the phone and other electronic means for home deliveries. Allowing non-food retailers to operate and carry out home deliveries will ensure that people have fewer reasons to step outside, there is the easy availability of non-essential supplies, and stricter adherence to social distancing.

*His Excellency*, we would like to apprise you that:

1. Retail businesses are under tremendous financial strain due to the extended closures. The financial pressures are on various fronts such as salaries, rentals, electricity charges, and various taxes and license fees among others.
2. Retail is a people-intensive industry. Delhi has more than 1 million retailers which employ approx. 5 million citizens in the state. 90% of Retail employees work at the stores, earning minimum wages and living a hand-to-mouth existence. With extended closures, these employees are at risk of being retrenched
3. With the closure and projected slowdown of retail consumption, the entire supply chain will be under stress. Distributors, C&F, Manufacturers, raw material suppliers, the entire value chain will have order cancellation and loss of income, which will lead to unemployment at their end as well.

**With all the precautionary measures in place, we hope you will consider our appeal and allow non-essential retailers to open and encourage them for home delivery of orders.**

We assure you of our constant support in the fight against COVID-19.

Warm regards,



**Kumar Rajagopalan**  
CEO, RAI